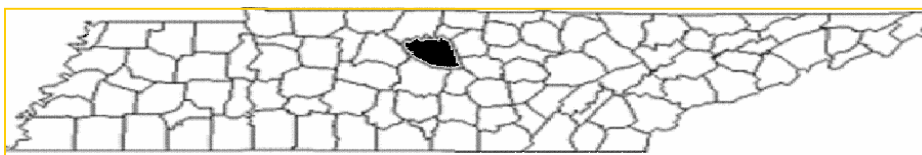


# The Status of Women in Wilson County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN WILSON COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	20.60	4
Women's Annual Earnings	\$26,794	3
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	67.2%	83
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	49.9%	2
Female Unemployment Rate	4.2%	8
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	34.1%	7
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	19.75	5
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	27.2%	15
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	17.9%	12
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	81.0%	7
Female High School Dropout Rate	9.8%	71
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	93.2%	29
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	7.9%	3
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	4.4%	3
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	27.8	18

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Wilson County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## WILSON

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Wilson is the only county to appear in the top ten counties for four employment and earnings indicators: annual earnings, wage gap, women's labor force participation rate, and female unemployment rate.
- ◇ Women in Wilson County have median annual earnings of \$26,794, and they earn 67.2% of the median earnings of their male counterparts.
- ◇ Wilson ranks second among counties in women's labor force participation rate (49.9%) and has a 4.2% female unemployment rate which is slightly higher than the overall county unemployment rate of 3.9%.
- ◇ Of working women in Wilson County 34.1% are employed in managerial or professional occupations. 31.7% of all employed persons work in such occupations in the county.

### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Slightly higher percentages of women (81.0%) have a high school diploma or equivalency than do men in the county. 80.9% of all county residents have a high-school level degree. Wilson ranks in the bottom 25 counties for female high school dropout rate (9.8%).
- ◇ 17.9% of Wilson County women have a four-year college degree while 19.6% of all county residents have such a degree. Slightly higher percentages of men than women have at least a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Of Wilson County women, 7.9% earn wages below the poverty level, and there are almost 2,500 women in Wilson County who have no kind of health insurance coverage.
- ◇ Though 4.6% of families are in poverty, the percentage rises to 19.0% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ 27.2% of private firms are owned by women in Wilson County. However, women-owned businesses account for just 5.2% of total income and receipts from privately-held firms in the county.
- ◇ 51.4% of eligible county voters are women and about 20 percent of elected county positions are held by women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## WILSON

		Wilson County	Rank of Wil- son County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$26,794	3	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	67.2%	83	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	49.9%	2	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	4.2%	8	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	34.1%	7	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	27.2%	15	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	17.9%	12	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	81.0%	7	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	9.8%	71	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	93.2%	29	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	7.9%	3	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	4.4%	3	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	27.8	18	Williamson: 1.2%

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Wilson County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties